Topics

• Summary of tenkara
• Ideas for people:
  – Wanting to fish tenkara
  – Who want to restart tenkara
• Ideas for those who fish tenkara, and want to extend their knowledge and/or skills
What is Tenkara?

• An efficient fixed fixed-line technique developed historically in streams of Japan

• Overall Philosophy
  – Simplicity
  – Minimize the equipment needed
  – Importance of identifying fish holds and fly presentation
  – Choice of fly not as important as presentation
  – Importance of overall environment
Equipment

- Designed for lightness and simplicity
- Emphasizes relaxed, focused fishing
- Maximizes fishing time
- Allows one to focus on:
  - Locating fish
  - Fly presentation & manipulation
Equipment

- **Rods**
  - Light, long, flexible, collapsible
  - Usually 9-13’ long, 2-4 oz.

- **Lines**
  - Usually the same length as the rod, or 1.5L
  - Several types: level, braided, tapered nylon

- **Flies**
  - Simple construction
  - Suggestive of insects
US Tenkara since 2009
Startup of TenkaraUSA

- US Rod makers and importers
- Books in English
- Techniques:
  - Oni School (SLC)
  - Tenkara Boot Camp
  - Various websites
- Widespread clubs and gatherings
Basics of Tenkara

- Websites: [www.tenkarausa.com](http://www.tenkarausa.com)
  - Lines, knots, flies, casting, manipulations

- Books:
  - Tenkara by Daniel Galhardo, 2017
  - Tenkara – Radically Simple, Ultralight Fly Fishing, Kevin D. Kelleher, with Misako Ishimura, 2011
Basic Cast

TenkaraUSA
Manipulations

- Dead drift
- Pause
- Pause and drift
- Pulsing
- Pulling
Examples of Tenkara Fishing

- Masami Sakakibara Tenkara Fishing
- Luong Tam in Golden Trout Wilderness
Ways to Explore Tenkara

• Reading and Websites
• Skills
  – Casting
  – Aerial mends
  – Manipulations
  – Landing large fish
• **Tenkara Today, Morgan Lyle, 2019**
  - General book surveying all aspects of tenkara
  - Detailed looks at some of the current main people in tenkara

• **How to Fool Fish with Simple Flies, Dr. Paul Gaskell & John Pearson, 2017**
  - Significant info about design of tenkara flies
  - Additional info on techniques

• **Reading Trout Waters, David Hughes, 1988**
  - How to find the most likely trout lies in all waters
Websites

  - Basics info + nymphing
  - Masami Sakakibara: videos
  - All things tenkara, Japanese rods
- “Tanuki Fishing” – YouTube channel
  - Many videos, Casting 101, 102
- Discover Tenkara [https://www.discovertenkara.com/](https://www.discovertenkara.com/)
  - Broad set of info, books/DVDs, etc.
Websites

- Tactical Nymphing [https://tacticalnymphing.org/](https://tacticalnymphing.org/)
  - Building a more effective way to think about nymphing
  - Equipment, info, and interviews
  - Equipment info, etc.
- Etc., etc.
Casting

- Reference: “Casting 101” on Tanuki Fishing (YouTube)
  - Rob Worthing of the Tenkara Guides
- Masami Sakakibara casting
  - Note also catching a larger fish
  - [Masami Sakakibara at Oni School 2019](#)
Aerial Mends

• The objective is to align fly, tippet, and line with the current
  – Technique is used upstream or downstream, surface or subsurface; variations accordingly
• Watch “Casting 102”, also with Rob Worthing
• I have a write-up on the GBF website, in Library-Articles
Fly Manipulations

• I’ve already mentioned 5 manipulations
  – There are many others, with Japanese names
  – All have circumstances when they’re useful
  – Discover Tenkara has materials on manipulations

• Example - Ashtapa-zuri Manipulation
Landing Large Fish

• A large fish can easily break a tenkara rod, and requires specific techniques
  – “Large” could be anything over ~18” (no fixed def’n)
  – Ex: 22” plants on the East Carson
  – Steelhead/Salmon are beyond normal tenkara rods. But Japanese rods exist: ~8-10 meters!

• Examples
  – The Masami Sakakibara video from 2019
  – Catching Large Fish
Thanks!

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